

-MEASURES FOR STABILIZING COASTAL DUNES-

PLANTING GUIDE

'ATLANTIC' Coastal panicgrass (*Panicum amarum* var. *amarulum*)

Description: A strong, perennial, short rhizomatous, salt-spray tolerant grass with numerous medium textured, erect stems 3 to 7 feet or more in height. Produces moderate to abundant numbers of medium textured bluish-green leaves 3/4 to 1 inch wide by 12 to 20 inches long. Radial lateral spread is 4 to 8 inches annually. Seedheads 4 to 8 feet in height are produced in late July through August or September. The seed is eagerly sought by doves and quail. Volunteer seedlings occasionally occur when the soil is undisturbed.

- **Native Habitat and Range:** Coastal dunes throughout the south Atlantic and Gulf regions.

- **Conservation Use:** Coastal panicgrass is used primarily in coastal dune stabilization, but has shown promise in vegetating other droughty, sterile areas such as sandpits and minespoils.

- **Site Preparation:** To prepare a seedbed, the soil should be plowed, disked, and packed. Bare soil can be broadcast seeded followed by harrowing or light disking to cover the seed. Vegetative plantings into bare soil can be made using a shovel or dibble.

- **Plant Material:** Freshly dug bare root tillers (sprigs) or seed are available commercially.

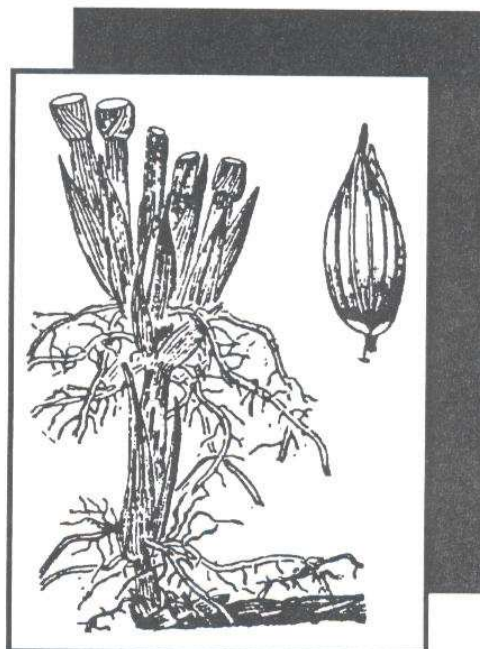
- **Time of Planting:** Plantings should be made November 1 to March 1, or June 1 to September 1 when it coincides with the rainy season.

- **Spacing and Seeding Rates:** Tillers (sprigs) should be planted in rows 6 to 8 feet apart and spaced about 18 inches apart in the rows. About 5,000 tillers per acre are required for this type of planting. Use 10 to 15 pounds of seed per acre drilled or 20 pounds per acre broadcast.

- **Depth:** Seed at 1 to 3 inches depth. Plant tillers so the roots are well distributed in moist soil and the crowns are covered with 1/2- to 1-inch soil. Pack firmly.

- **Fertilizer:** Fertilize winter plantings at planting time. Apply 400 pounds of 10-10-10 per acre or equivalent, plus minor elements, in the spring. Repeat this fertilization in mid- to late summer. For summer plantings, place one ounce of slow release fertilizer such as **Osmocote* in each hole as material is planted, or apply 200 to 300 pounds of 10-10-10 per acre 3 to 4 weeks after planting. Apply the same rate and kind June 1 through 15 and August 1 through 15, annually, until the stand fills in the spacing.

- **Maintenance:** Minimize foot traffic and remove debris from planting.



Coastal panicgrass

* Other commercial fertilizers of the same analysis and with a slow release formulation may also be used.